

Victor Sheldrew House  
West side of S. Broadway St.  
Montour  
Gem County  
Idaho

HABS No. ID-42

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

VICTOR SHELDREW HOUSE

HABS No. ID-42

Location: West side of South Broadway  
Montour, Gem County, Idaho  
UTM: 11/553950/4863000

Present Owner: United States Department of the Interior

Present Occupant: Unoccupied

Present Use: Unused

Statement of  
Significance: This house was built by Victor Sheldrew, a  
local carpenter, as his own residence. It is  
a distinctive rendition of the bungalow form, a  
general style which Sheldrew used in construct-  
ing other local houses.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of erection: 1921

Builder: Victor Sheldrew

Historical narrative:

The Victor Sheldrew house was begun in the late spring of 1921 and was occupied by the end of that year. Sheldrew was a local carpenter who built a number of houses besides his own in Montour. Among them were the George Adams house (1915), the Cox house (1917), the Amos and Volkmer houses (1919), and the Brown house (1920). He also worked on the Valley County Courthouse in Cascade (1920). Given even this limited list, it is clear that Sheldrew was quite familiar with the Craftsman Bungalow form. His choice for his own residence was within this architectural idiom, but in form and material was quite unlike the prevailing style of domestic architecture to be found in Montour. Both the roof form and plan appear, though not in combination, in books such as Bungalowcraft (1914), Bungalows (1926), and Bungalows and Modern Homes (1928).

Bibliography:

Emmett Index: 7 January 1915, 3:3; 10 April 1919, 6:1;  
22 May 1919, 8:2; 22 April 1920, 3:3; 16 August 1920,  
6:1; 14 July 1921, 8:3; 29 December 1921, 8:2

Keeley, Cecil J.. Bungalows and Modern Homes. New York:  
Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928.

Bungalowcraft Co. Bungalowcraft. Los Angeles, 1914.

Saylor, Henry H.. Bungalows. New York: Robert M. McBride  
and Co., 1926.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### General statement

1. Architectural merit and interest: This "oriental bungalow" seems to reflect its owner's and builder's wishes for a design distinctively different from those of neighboring houses, as well as an inability - through poverty, insensitivity, or whatever cause - to complete construction, much less to do so consistently.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair
3. Summary description: One story approximately 37'-6" x 44'-6", U-shaped plan.

### Detailed description of exterior

1. Foundations: The foundation height varies from 28 to 31 inches and is constructed of concrete with river-gravel aggregate. In general the marks of horizontal form boards are visible and the surfaces are eroded; but at the front of the house the surface of the concrete has been given a smooth, thin cement surfacing. At the center of the south wall of the house a portion of the foundation about five feet long is missing. At the edges of this break the concrete crumbles to the touch. At the southwest and southeast corners portions of the foundation surface are new. The concrete of the front terrace is different from that of the foundation. See "Porches, etc."
2. Wall construction: The walls are surfaced with stucco, finished crudely in patches of rough stippling. The stucco has cracked in many places. Most cracks are horizontal and vertical, a few are diagonal. In some places portions of stucco have fallen off, showing that it has been applied over a solid wood sheathing with grooves 3/8 to 3/4 inches wide, 1/4 inch deep, and with 1 inch between grooves. Metal corner beads are used at corners. The scratch (first) coat of stucco is white and the finish coat is medium gray with a slight greenish cast. The

central part of the rear wall is finished in clapboards.

3. Structural system: The house is of wood-frame construction.
4. Porches, etc.: The front of the house constitutes the recess of the U-shaped plan, and in this recess is a raised concrete terrace with steps set into it and with a parapet 14½ inches high (above the terrace) cast in concrete. The front surface of the parapet and terrace has been cast in the form of clapboards. At the rear of the house real clapboards seem to enclose what was originally an open porch.
5. Chimneys: Near the center of the house is the brick fireplace chimney, with some missing bricks and deteriorated mortar at its top. To the south of this chimney is another one, smaller, also of brick.
6. Openings, doorways and doors: The front door is a 12-light glazed door (French door), its wood stained or varnished. Also from the terrace, at the north side, an ordinary five-paneled door gives access to the house. Door trim is flat with a narrow backband.
7. Openings, windows: The windows vary in detailing and type and in pattern of panes. At the front terrace and in the room at the southeast corner of the house the windows are inward opening casements. These have muntins of the usual type and the glass is held in place with putty. The muntins divide the windows with two panes side-by-side above a horizontal muntin and one pane below. The horizontal muntin is not at a consistent height. In the room at the northeast corner of the house and around the north side, the sash have thicker muntins, and the glass is held in place with wooden stops instead of putty. This detail is unusual. The American Prairie School architects of the midwest used it, but so also did the colonial Spaniards in eighteenth century Texas, for example.  
  
Other types of windows are also used in the house; there is 1/1 sash at the breakfast nook in the kitchen.
8. Roof, shape covering: Gable roofs are used. The slightly higher central roof is merged into the gable roofs flanking it with hips. The detailing of the gable peaks is unusual, giving the house an oriental appearance: the ridges here are bent upward and the peaks of the gables curved upward. The roof covering is wood shingles, except at the rear central portion, where the slope is reduced, the roofing is corrugated iron. A galvanized iron beaded ridge cap is used, with an ornamental ball finishing the ends. The shingles are unpainted, as is the ridge cap, and are slightly

cupped.

9. Roof, eaves: The gable bargeboards are cut out at the eaves with a half-circular form, as through to support a gutter, but there are no gutters nor evidence of them there. At the north side of the terrace and at the rear door, makeshift metal gutters run above the doors.

A small cantilevered gable roof shelters the front door. The gable is in the form of a triangular pediment; that is, it does not have the upward curving point at its peak which the other gables have. In addition, it does not have the flat moldings used at the other gables; its moldings have conventional reversed-curves in cross section.

10. Roof, dormers, etc.: None

Detailed description of interior

1. Floor plan: The U-shaped plan has the opening facing the front (east). The living room faces the front, and behind it are the porch and the bathroom. Each leg of the U consists of a line of three rooms, the middle one entered from the living room. The house has no hallways. The south leg of the U has the dining room at the center and the kitchen at the rear. There is a cellar under the living room.
2. Stairway: At the back porch is a stairway to the cellar accessible by raising a hatch door in the floor.
3. Flooring: Linoleum floor covering is used except at the back porch, which is wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: In general, walls and ceilings are finished in plaster on wood lath, but end rooms of the north wing have not been completed and there is no interior wall nor ceiling finish.
5. Doorways and doors: The living room and dining room are connected by a doorway without doors. The bathroom and the two unfinished rooms have five-panel doors. Elsewhere French doors are used. Door and window trim is flat with a narrow backband.
6. Interior trim: The fireplace is of red common brick laid in common bond with a segmental arch spanning the opening. The brick joints have been crudely treated with patching plaster in an apparent attempt to achieve a surface pattern resembling wads of chewing gum. The mantel shelf is concrete, and this and the bricks and their curiously patterned mortar joints have all been enameled red. The hearth is red quarry tile, not painted.

7. Hardware: Plain morticed latchsets are used.
8. Mechanical and electrical equipment: The chimney above the fireplace is pierced to receive a circular metal flue, and a copper tube pierces the hearth, presumably connecting to the oil drum at the south side of the house.

Site and surroundings

1. Orientation and general setting: The front of the house faces east to the street. The George Adams house is next door to the south.
2. Historic landscape design: None
3. Outbuildings: At the south side of the rear of the lot there is a long curved-roofed, one-story structure, roofed and only partly walled with 1 x 12 rough planks, possibly used as a wood shed. It is very crudely built.

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by Dennett, Muessig & Associates, Iowa City, Iowa, in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation, Pacific Northwest Region. It fulfills the Bureau of Reclamation's obligations under a memorandum of agreement between the Bureau, the State of Idaho, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800. The structure was photographed, measured, and drawn March - September, 1979 by Sarah J. Dennett and Hans Muessig, Project Supervisors; Wesley I. Shank, Project Architectural Historian/Historical Architect, (Iowa State University); Martha H. Bowers, Project Historian; Robert A. Ryan, Project Photographer; and Philipp Muessig, Project Assistant.

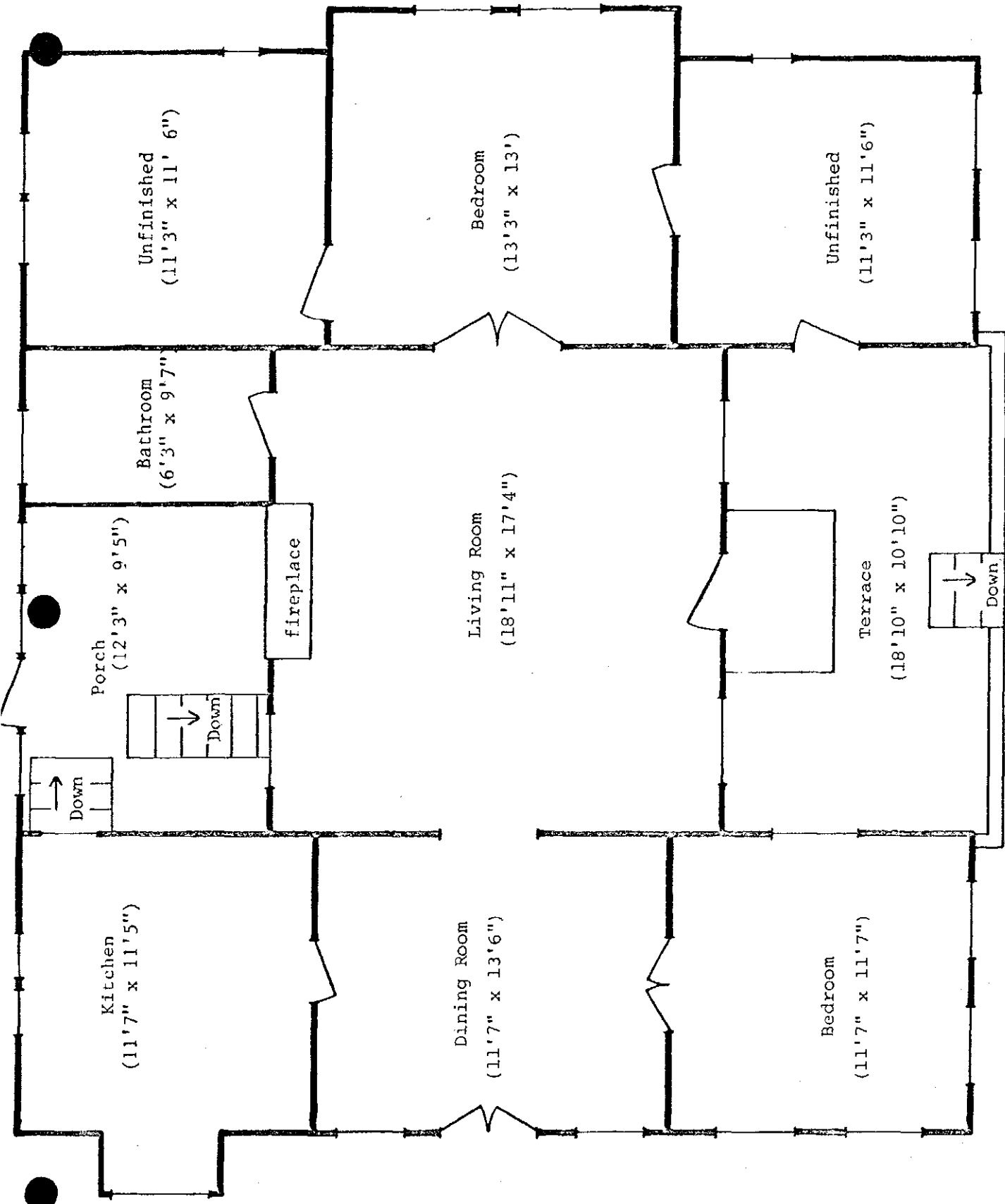
APPENDIX

CHAIN OF TITLE: VICTOR SHELDREW HOUSE

Description: East  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lot 39, Dewey Lots, T7N R1E, Boise Meridian

Reference: Recorder's Office, Gem County Courthouse, Emmett, Idaho

- 1919 Deed 5 December 1919  
Recorded 3 February 1920  
Book 13 Deeds, p. 252  
Dewey Investment Co.  
to  
L. J. Douglas
- 1921 Deed 11 May 1921  
Recorded 9 January 1928  
Book 18 Deeds, p. 231  
L. J. Douglas & Mary E. Douglas  
to  
V. H. Sheldrew
- 1939 Decree of Distribution 11 February 1939  
Recorded 11 February 1939  
Book 2 Probate, p. 201  
Estate of V. H. Sheldrew, Deceased  
to  
John A. Sheldrew & Richard V. Sheldrew
- 1947 Deed 29 October 1947  
Recorded 1 November 1947  
Book 31 Deeds, p. 640  
John A. & June D. Sheldrew, & Richard V. & Betty Sheldrew  
to  
Horace C. Carrell & Jennie L. Carrell
- 1977 Deed 21 September 1977  
Recorded 22 September 1977  
Deed Instrument # 121476  
Horace C. Carrell  
to  
U. S. A.



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VICTOR SHELDREW HOUSE

approx. 3/16 scale